

ABSTRACT

Sifado, Kenysha K. 2025. *The use of Platform Merdeka Mengajar (PMM) as a Media of Teaching Reading for English Teachers in Junior High School (A Qualitative Descriptive Study of The English Teacher at State Junior High School 1 Banyumas).* Supervisor 1: Dian Adiarti S.Pd., M.Hum.; Supervisor 2: Nisa Roiyasa S.Pd., M.TESOL; Chief External Examiner: Novita Pri Andini, S.Pd., M.Pd; External Examiner: Slamet Riyadi, S.S., M.Pd. Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Education, English Language Education Study Program, Purwokerto.

This study investigates the use of *Platform Merdeka Mengajar* (PMM) as a media for teaching reading by an English teacher at SMPN 1 Banyumas. As part of the implementation of *Kurikulum Merdeka*, PMM provides digital teaching tools, learning materials, and professional development features designed to support teacher performance. Using qualitative descriptive method, data were collected through classroom observations, interview, and document analysis. The findings reveal that the teacher utilized PMM to access ready-to-use reading materials, particularly prepositio texts, and applied them in classroom instruction. PMM also facilitated the preparation of worksheets and supported interactive learning through contextual teaching aids. Additionally, PMM contributed to teacher development by providing training and certification opportunities. Despite these benefits, challenges were found, including teachers' limited familiarity with the platform and decreasing activity of PMM due to policy changes. Overall, the study concludes that PMM is beneficial for supporting teaching reading activities, enriching instructional materials, and improving teacher competence, although continuous improvement and supports are still needed for its optimal use.

Keywords: *Junior High School, Kurikulum Merdeka, Platform Merdeka Mengajar (PMM), Reading Skill*

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Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan Platform Merdeka Mengajar (PMM) sebagai media dalam pembelajaran membaca oleh guru Bahasa Inggris di SMPN 1 Banyumas. Sebagai bagian dari implementasi Kurikulum Merdeka, PMM menyediakan alat ajar digital, materi pembelajaran, serta fitur pengembangan profesional yang dirancang untuk mendukung kinerja guru. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, data dikumpulkan melalui observasi kelas, wawancara, dan analisis dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa guru memanfaatkan PMM untuk mengakses materi membaca siap pakai, khususnya teks preposisi, dan menerapkannya dalam kegiatan pembelajaran. PMM juga membantu guru dalam menyiapkan lembar kerja serta mendukung pembelajaran interaktif melalui penggunaan media dan alat peraga kontekstual. Selain itu, PMM berkontribusi pada pengembangan profesional guru melalui pelatihan dan sertifikasi yang tersedia. Meskipun memberikan banyak manfaat, penelitian ini menemukan beberapa kendala, seperti keterbatasan guru dalam mengoperasikan platform dan menurunnya aktivitas PMM akibat perubahan kebijakan. Secara keseluruhan, penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa PMM bermanfaat dalam mendukung pembelajaran membaca, memperkaya materi ajar, serta meningkatkan kompetensi guru, meskipun pengembangan dan dukungan berkelanjutan tetap diperlukan agar penggunaannya lebih optimal.

Kata kunci: Keterampilan Membaca, Kurikulum Merdeka, Platform Merdeka Mengajar (PMM), Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP)